

Application No.: 09/747,681
Amendment Dated: June 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: March 19, 2004

MAT-8080US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 23 and 26 were objected to as depending from cancelled claims. In response, claims 23 and 26 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41 and 43 have been rejected in view of prior art. Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, and 34, however, were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, those claims have been rewritten in independent form and the rejected claims have been cancelled. The remaining claims were previously found to be allowable.

In view of the amendments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 18, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

June 18, 2004

Fran Petrello